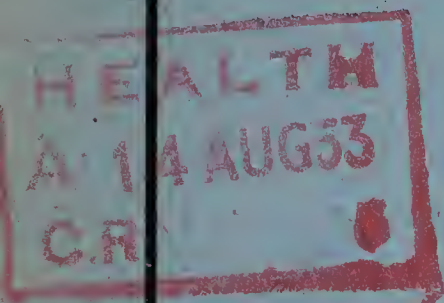


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RUNCORN RURAL DISTRICT



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December

1952

RURAL DISTRICT AUTHORITY OF RUNCORN

ANNUAL REPORT

1 9 5 2

by

**E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
RUNCORN URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICTS**

OFFICIALS OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :

- (1) Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts**
- (2) Divisional Medical Officer of Health
Divisional School Medical Officer (Runcorn Division)**

**E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.
(Office Tel. No.: Frodsham 2186
Home Tel. No.: Great Mollington 66)**

Sanitary Inspectors and Meat and Food Inspectors :

**D. BOOTHMAN, M.S.I.A., Senior Sanitary Inspector
National Certificate in Building
Certified Sanitary Inspector (R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.)
Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods (R.S.I.)
Offices: Public Health Department, Castle Park, Frodsham.
Tel. No.: Frodsham 2186
Sub-Office, 22 Orchard Street, Stockton Heath.
Tel. No.: Stockton Heath 1024
Home: Tel. No.: Frodsham 2219**

**G. F. SIXSMITH, Additional Sanitary Inspector
Certified Sanitary Inspector (R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.)
Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods (R.S.I.)
Housing Management Certificate (The Institute of Housing)
Diploma in General Hygiene Advanced (R.I.P.H. & H.)**

Home Tel. No.: Warrington 2824

Clerk/Pupil Sanitary Inspectors :

**P. MOSS, Passed R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B. November, 1952
E. H. PEET**

Clerical Duties :

MISS D. YOUD

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of Food

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APPENDIX “B”—Annual Report, 1952—Divisional Health (Runcorn Division).

AN APPEAL TO ALL CONCERNED, ESPECIALLY TO VOLUNTARY SOCIETIES, IS AGAIN MADE TO MAKE FULL USE OF THIS REPORT; DISCUSSION GROUPS, ETC., IN HEALTH EDUCATION SHOULD BE ARRANGED FOR IN THE INTERESTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH AT FREQUENT INTERVALS.

SPECIAL ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO APPENDIX A

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN, 1952

From 27th May, 1952

Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR HAROLD HILL, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR ALFRED JONES

Health Committee:

COUNCILLOR J. W. KIRKHAM, *Chairman*

COUNCILLOR Mrs E. STANSFIELD, J.P., *Vice-Chairman*

Councillor W. H. CAPPER, J.P.	Councillor R. E. PAYTON, C.C.
„ D. L. DAVIES	„ H. PEAKE, J.P., C.C.
„ H. R. DONE	„ G. S. WALLWORTH
„ H. HELSBY	„ E. G. WHITE (appointed July 22nd, 1952)
„ W. S. LOOKER (re-signed July 3rd, 1952)	„ C. WILKINSON
„ J. HUNT	„ G. WILLIAMS

and Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council

OFFICERS:

Solicitor/Clerk of the Council:

Mr. R. PATRICK WILLIAMS, Frodsham

Engineer and Surveyor:

Mr. B. PRESTON, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., M.R.San.I.,
Frodsham

INTRODUCTION

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As in previous years the shortage of proper housing accommodation for all ages, *especially the children* is the question still before us, though much has been done by my Councils to rectify this.

The question of properties requiring demolition or closure requires urgent solution, lists of these will be presented to you early in 1953.

Special attention is drawn to Appendix "A" — "The Common-sense Preventive Measures against Disease" — this is one of the excellent ways of furthering Health Education and has been distributed to e.g., most Factories, Voluntary Societies, Schools, Libraries and Households in the district.

As Cleanliness means so much in the Prevention of Disease, this statement issued by the United States National Sanitation Foundation is important:

"Sanitation is a way of life. It is the quality of living that is expressed in the clean home, the clean farm, the clean business and industry, the clean neighbourhood, the clean community. Being a way of life it must come from within the people; it is nourished by knowledge and grows as an obligation and an ideal in human relations."

Annual Report, 1952, Divisional Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn (by agreement with the Cheshire County Council and my local Council) — this report is included as an Appendix "B" and attached hereto.

The co-operation and help of *all* concerned outside my offices, in the Public Health Department and other departments has been greatly appreciated by me in the carrying out of my various duties — without the "Team Spirit" it would be difficult to obtain results.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a)	Area (in acres)	....	....	....	....	45,765
(b)	Estimated population (Registrar-General)	....	....			35,520
(c)	Number of inhabited houses (end 1952) according to the Rate Books	....	....	....	....	10,796
(d)	Rateable value of the District (end 1952)	....	....			£222,657
(e)	Sum represented by one penny rate (approx.)	....				£890
(f)	Density of Population. Number of persons per acre (estimated population)	....	....	....	....	.77
(g)	Average number of persons per inhabited house (estimated population)	....	....	....	....	3.29

Social Conditions

Agriculture and dairy farming are the chief industries of the district; other industries are tanneries, electric cable, electric fittings and steel tubes works, flour mills and jam works. Sand quarrying is being carried on in the district, chiefly at Whitley and Moore.

Parts of the district are mainly residential.

Unemployment.—Exact statistics are not available for this area as the figures obtained by the local offices of the Ministry of Labour related to the areas served by such offices and these areas are not identical with the Runcorn Rural District. The incidence of unemployment, however, was low in the area.

Many of the inhabitants are employed in industrial areas outside the district.

Children's homes and sanatoria.—There is a National Children's Home at Frodsham (195 children), one open-air Convalescent School for Jewish Children at Norley; two sanatoria at Manley each accommodating about 300 persons (nursing staff being available).

Welfare Centres (Cheshire County Council).—At present there is a Welfare Centre (fully staffed) at Helsby, Frodsham, Stockton Heath, Grappenhall, Antrobus and Kingsley. Attendances at these are very satisfactory.

VITAL STATISTICS

			<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Live Births—Legitimate	....	....	475	251	224
Illegitimate	....	....	17	7	10
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			492	258	234

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 13.86

			<i>Total</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
Still Births—Legitimate	....	....	5	4	1
Illegitimate	....	....	1	0	1
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			6	4	2

Rate of Still Births per 1,000 total (Live and Still births): 12.19.

Deaths 404 216 188

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11.38

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

(Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):

No. 30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....Nil

Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age

All Infants per 1,000 live births (10 deaths) Death Rate 20.32

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 18.94

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 58.83

Particulars of any Unusual or Excessive Mortality during the year which has received or required comment

The causes of the highest mortality were:

Heart Disease 83 (*Vide* Registrar-General)

Cancer 58 „

Heart Disease was prevalent in persons over 65 years of age, some cases may have been due to the effects of e.g., Rheumatism in childhood—this is being further investigated under the auspices of the Ministry of Health (lack of vitamin C, gland deficiency, etc.).

For further remarks on Cancer see page 34 (i.e., further research, early treatment, etc.).

COMPARISON RATES

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality Rate</i>
1942	33,000	14.2	11.2	29.6
1943	33,000	15.7	11.5	46.5
1944	33,000	18.24	10.55	34.54
1945	31,710	15.5	11.07	32.58
1946	32,760	16.9	11.69	32.43
1947	32,930	16.85	11.93	48.6
1948	34,230	15.37	11.08	36.13
1949	34,550	11.75	11.92	27.66
1950	35,580	13.91	10.72	20.20
1951	35,510	13.83	13.89	48.88
1952	35,520	13.86	11.38	20.32

(Population figures for 1942-1944, estimate only.)

A table on page 31 gives the Birth Rate, Death Rate and analysis of mortality during the year 1952 and comparisons with England and Wales, London and other great and smaller towns.

There were 266 deaths of persons over 65 years of age.

			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
From 65–69	Number of Deaths	....	20	23	43
„ 70–79	„ „ „	....	65	70	135
„ 80–89	„ „ „	....	36	45	81
„ 90–99	„ „ „	....	3	4	7

Summary of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

1 (a)	Prematurity 30 weeks, weight 3 lb. 6 ozs.	....	....	....	Male aged 6 hours
1 (a)	Prematurity, weight 2 lb. 13 ozs. (2) Maternal severe Toxæmia of pregnancy	....	....	....	Male aged 2 days
1 (a)	Acute broncho pneumonia....	....			Male aged 4 months
	Broncho pneumonia and congenital heart disease	....	....	....	Female aged 4 months
1 (a)	Broncho pneumonia	....	....		Male aged 1 month
1 (a)	Prematurity (b) weight 3 lbs 10 ozs. (c) Congenital Atelectasis. (2) Epileptic mother	....	....	....	Male aged 11 hours
1 (a)	Prematurity	....	....	....	Male aged 1 hour
1 (a)	Pneumonia	....	....	....	Male aged 2 months
1 (a)	Prematurity, weight 1 lb. 13 ozs....				Female aged 3 days
1 (a)	Cerebral hæmorrhage (b) Birth injury (c) Prematurity (2) Abscess on back	....	....	....	Male aged 1 week

Prevention of any Unusual or Excessive Mortality—Children

Treatment in a General Hospital or an Infectious Disease Hospital, etc., is available for all such cases if any Doctor decides that treatment will benefit, and the patient is fit to be moved. Premature births are specially treated in Hospital or Nursing Homes. District Nurses assist in nursing at home (via the patient's own doctor).

The above is in addition to Health Education, Welfare Schemes and Clinics, etc.

SECTION B GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. Public Health Officers

The names and qualifications, districts, addresses and telephone numbers are given at the beginning of the Report.

2. Laboratory Facilities

The Biological Institute of Messrs. Evans Medical Supplies is established in Runcorn. The Institute can supply serum for cases of Anthrax *in emergency*.

With the facilities given by the Public Health Laboratory, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead, the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Newton Heath, Manchester, and the Public Health Laboratories at Warrington and Chester Royal Infirmaries, also various General Hospital Laboratories, all concerned will now be able to make fuller arrangements for pathological overhauls *so essential* in certain cases. It is hoped that this extended service will give all concerned further facilities in the investigation of infectious disease and disease generally (e.g., by pathological overhauls).

Milk is sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead.

V.D. specimens are sent to the laboratories mentioned above, as required.

SECTION C

1. Water

(i) The water supply of the area has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity, with the exception of isolated farms and houses not on a mains supply.

(ii) Mains supplies and results of chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations are as follows. Parishes refer to the main areas; outlying portions of parishes may be connected to other mains.

Alvanley and Helsby—by the Council from Helsby Wells.

Dutton, Kingsley, Norley, Preston Brook and Sutton—by the Council from Liverpool (Vyrnwy) bulk supplies.

Frodsham, Manley, Antrobus and Whitley—by the Council from Warrington Corporation bulk supplies.

Stockton Heath, Grappenhall, Walton, Appleton, Stretton, Moore, Daresbury—by Warrington Corporation.

Halton and Clifton—by Runcorn and District Water Board.

Aston and Norton—by private estate mains, the bulk supply being Liverpool (Vyrnwy).

Budworth—by the Council from Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board bulk supplies.

<i>Chemical Analyses</i>	<i>Helsby Well (no treatment) to Alvanley, Helsby</i>	<i>Warrington Harrol Edge to Frodsham, Manley,</i>	<i>Liverpool Vyrnwy to Aston, Dutton, Kingsley, Norley, Norton, Preston Brook, Sutton</i>	<i>Runcorn and District Water Board to Halton</i>	<i>Warrington Vyrnwy mixed to Stockton Heath Area and most other Parishes</i>	<i>Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board to Budworth Village and Ball Lane, Kingsley</i>
Date	15.1.52	15.11.50	15.5.50	15.11.50	20.3.51	6.3.51
Appearance	Clear and Colourless	Clear and Colourless	Clear and Colourless	Clear and slight yellow	Clear and Colourless	Clear and Colourless
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Reaction	pH 7.1	pH 7.0	pH 6.3	pH 6.4	pH 7.0	pH 7.1
<i>Parts per million</i>						
Total solids	207	188	38	50	277	286
Nitrogen as free and saline ammonia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Nil
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.00	0.005
Nitrogen as nitrites	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	2.5	2.25	0.00	0.00	5.25	4.8
Chlorides as Cl.	26	30	10	9	29	24
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in four hours at 27° C.	0.019	0.06	2.48	3.03	0.03	0.16
Total hardness	130	130	25	30	140	170
Temporary hardness	98	96	6	12	100	104
Permanent hardness	32	34	19	18	40	66
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	98	96	6	12	100	104
Free chlorine	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Poisonous metals	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Bacteriological Examination:—						
Date	16.12.52	19.8.52	19.8.52	19.8.52	21.10.52	19.8.52
Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 m.l.	Nil	Nil	2	1	Nil	Nil
% of above faecal coli	—	—	—	—	—	—
Report	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory

Analyst's Opinion

Helsby 15.1.52.—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

Warrington Harrol Edge 15.11.50.—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory and of great organic purity.

Liverpool Vyrnwy 15.5.50.—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

Runcorn and District Water Board 15.11.50.—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

Warrington Vyrnwy mixed 20.3.51 — The water is of a high degree of organic purity.

Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board 6.3.51.—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

(iii) Private water supplies are bacteriologically examined at least once per year. Where, as a result of such sampling, the supplies have been established as unsatisfactory, Notices advising that the water be boiled or chlorinated before drinking, dietetic and dairy purposes are sent and repeated quarterly to the owners and occupiers.

Where farms and farm cottages are concerned, the owners are strongly advised to obtain a mains supply with the assistance of the Cheshire Agricultural Committee under the Agricultural (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1944, Sec. 5.

Certain mains extensions were approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and the following were carried out:—

1. Manley — Extension to Birch Hill Farm, supplying 2 farms and 2 cottages.

2. Antrobus — Extension from Sandilands Farm, to a point from which service connections can be taken for Fir Tree Farm and Pennypeck House.

3. Whitley/Daresbury — Extension from Grimsditch Mill to serve Black Jane Farm and 2 cottages.

4. Great Budworth — Mains extension to serve a new farm.

5. Other extensions concerned with new Housing Sites.

Five Milk Producing Farms and fifteen dwelling houses were provided with mains supplies in the year.

(iv)

Parish	(a) Public Water Mains				(b) Private Supplies					
	Direct to house		Standpipes		Private Water Mains		Wells and Springs			
	Houses	Popu- lation	Houses	Popu- lation	Houses	Popu- lation	Good Quality	Popu- lation	Suspicious or unsatisfactory Quality	Popu- lation
Alvanley.....	79	264	2	5	—	—	2	6	2	6
Antrobus.....	216	664	1	5	—	—	1	3	6	18
Appleton.....	1018	2927	—	—	—	—	2	5	1	3
Aston.....	43	126	2	4	27	87	—	—	—	—
Budworth (Great).....	118	357	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daresbury.....	69	230	—	—	—	—	2	3	1	3
Dutton.....	94	402	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—
Frodsham.....	1562	5147	1	3	—	—	—	—	2	13
Grappenhall.....	1760	5805	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Halton.....	447	1619	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hatton.....	88	301	—	—	—	—	4	12	—	—
Helsby.....	825	2758	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kingsley.....	326	1253	20	64	—	—	2	6	10	29
Manley.....	139	622	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Moore.....	156	511	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norley.....	276	945	—	—	—	—	1	4	2	5
Norton.....	16	59	—	—	25	81	—	—	—	—
Preston Brook.....	111	333	—	—	1	4	—	—	10	35
Stockton Heath.....	2287	7367	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stretton.....	129	451	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	7
Sutton.....	228	681	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Walton.....	510	1714	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Whitley.....	162	551	5	15	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals.....	10659	35087	31	96	53	172	17	46	36	119

(2) Drainage and Sewerage

Sutton — The sewerage and sewage disposal scheme was completed apart from minor maintenance work under the contract. Most properties were connected to the new system. Further connections and closet conversions are in progress.

Kingsley and Norley — Further discussions with the County Council and Northwich Rural District Council on the question of including the parish of Crowton were continued, with the result that the Runcorn Rural District Council will present their original scheme for Kingsley and Norley only to the Ministry.

Frodsham — A preliminary report was received on Hares Lane Pumping Station, further investigations into the nature of the subsoil are continuing.

Stockton Heath — A scheme to overcome flooding was prepared and an Enquiry was held. The Ministry indicated that subject to certain modifications it would be given favourable consideration.

Other matters requiring attention in the future are:—

1. Helsby — new intercepting sewer and sewage disposal works extension.
2. Great Budworth — sewers and sewage disposal works.
3. Stretton — sewage disposal improvements.
4. Acton Grange — works enlargements.
5. Moore — sewage disposal improvements.

When septic tanks are installed it is important that *adequate filtration or subsoil irrigation* is provided to prevent pollution of watercourses and ditches. *In addition, the septic tanks should be maintained and desludged at regular intervals.* Many inspections have been carried out in connection with existing installations and in giving advice on new proposed works.

Six drainage systems were connected to the sewer, in addition to those in Sutton.

3. Rivers and Streams

Pollution of ditches and streams remains a problem owing to the erection of new houses, improved sanitary appliances to existing houses and improved milk and dairy technique in parishes without sewers. Private owners are advised on the best type of septic tanks and filters for their property. Where such properties are in groups, the only final satisfactory solution is the provision of a sewer and sewage disposal works. Liquor from cowsheds presents a particularly difficult problem where it is not collected and returned to the land as manure.

The Council acquired a cesspool emptying vehicle which has proved particularly useful for desludging septic or settling tanks, both Council and private property. For private work the Council charge 10/- per hour with a minimum charge of 10/- and require the applicant to have the access covers of the tank loosened and opened up in readiness.

Where plans are submitted to the Engineer and Surveyor involving drainage systems not connected to a public Sewer, the observations of this department have been sought on the efficiency of the proposed drainage disposal.

Pretreated effluents from two tanneries at Grappenhall are received into the Council's sewer which has improved the condition of the stream previously receiving the drainage, some pollution still occurs occasionally owing to the failure of the tannery plant to deal with all the effluent in the settling tanks.

The pollution of the non tidal section of the Manchester Ship Canal continues, but probably owing to the lack of any continued period of warm weather during the year, no complaints were received.

(4) Closet Accommodation

Thirty-six conversions to the water carriage system were carried out. Where this has been done voluntarily by the owners, the Council has, when requested, paid a grant up to £10, increased to £15 from August, 1952, provided that where a public sewer is not available, the owners will at their own expense connect to a public sewer when it becomes available.

(5) Public Cleansing

This is carried out by the Engineer and Surveyor under direct labour. Disposal is by tipping, *which should be "controlled."* To assist in achieving full controlled tipping, small tips which are used infrequently and which cannot be supervised continually, should be, where possible, discontinued.

Rocksavage Tip was closed and a new area of low lying land was obtained in the same locality near the Sutton Sewage Works.

The new cesspool emptying vehicle is adopted for the collection of the contents of pail closets and enables the collection and disposal of the nightsoil to be carried out with the minimum of nuisance.

D.D.T. or Gammexane types of insecticide should be used on tips as and when required, especially in warm weather.

6. Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Senior Sanitary Inspector under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (outside London) Regulations, 1935, or Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926:—

<i>Nature of Inspections</i>			<i>No. of Inspections</i>	<i>Informal Notices</i>	<i>Statutory Notices</i>
Dwelling Houses (Housing Acts)	....	....	190	15	—
Dwelling Houses (No. of Inmates and queries re Council house applications)	....	....	364	—	—
Dwelling Houses (Public Health Act)			654	132	26

Defects in above.

(a) Roofs, gutters and rain-water pipes	285	57	14
(b) Drains and sanitary fittings	174	35	8
(c) Other defects	320	65	13
(d) W.C's and closets	90	18	—
Schools	8	1	—
Moveable Dwellings	372	5	—
Water Supplies (Samples)	66	—	—
(Other Inspections)	42	—	—
Closet Conversions	305	21	—
Cesspools and Septic Tanks	389	15	—
Sewer Connections	207	11	—
Sewers	31	12	11
Ditches, Brooks	27	16	—
Colour Tests (sewers and drains)	74	—	—
Refuse Collection and Disposal	42	26	—
Foul Accumulations	3	3	—
Tipping on Waste Land	98	—	—
Vermin (Rats and Mice)	235	3	—
(Insects)	60	—	—
Piggeries and keeping of animals	59	3	—
Dairies and Milk Retailers	42	3	—
Milk Samples	83	—	—
Factories and Workshops	47	13	—
Shops and Foodstores	136	10	—
Bakehouses	15	—	—
Meat and Food Inspection	92	—	—
Canal Boats	1	—	—
Zymotic Inquiries	131	—	—
Visits to Contacts and Schools	81	—	—
Mortuaries	17	—	—
Petrol Stores	20	1	—
Hutted Camps	20	—	—
Miscellaneous	64	—	—
Health (Divisional matters, etc.)	30	—	—
Interviews with Builders, owners and Agents	171	—	—
Ice-Cream Samples	77	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	18	2	—
Pets Act	2	—	—
Totals	4273	292	37

SHOPS

7. Shops Act, 1950, Food and Drugs Act, 1938

No. employing persons	....	....	....	....	....	127
No. employing members of own family only	....	....	....	....	....	197
						<hr/> 324 <hr/>

Of these Shops :

No. selling food	....	....	....	....	....	247
No. registered under	(1) Manufacture and sale of ice-					
Food and Drugs Act	cream (hot mix, 4; cold mix, 6)					10
1938, Section 14)	{	(2) Sale only of ice-cream				58
		(3) Preparation of preserved foods				44

(8) Smoke Abatement

The Council remains a constituent Authority with the Manchester Regional Smoke Abatement Committee and makes a contribution to its fund for providing special Smoke Inspectors.

Action by the appropriate Government Departments in supplying only the proper means of burning good coal, etc., in the house, factory, etc., would go a long way in reducing the nuisance.

Noxious odours were at times noted in the district arising from two large industrial works outside the district, when the wind is in a certain direction, fortunately not the prevailing wind. The matter has been referred to H.M. Alkali Inspector (Factory Inspector). who states he has the matter in hand. The matter is an urgent one.

(9) Rats and Mice Destruction

The Senior Sanitary Inspector acts as Rodent Officer—one full-time rodent operative is employed. The Council co-operates with the Cheshire Agricultural Executive Committee who carry out rodent destruction on agricultural premises.

Treatment was offered to industrial premises at a charge of cost of labour and materials. Some of these, schools, and two cooking depots, receive treatment as required on this basis—12 others preferred to enter into contracts as before. Dwelling houses receive free treatment unless the infestation is due to lack of hygiene or the unsatisfactory keeping of animals or poultry, in which case a charge is made. Warfarin with an oatmeal base was used with satisfactory results.

Some 530 other properties were inspected and of these 126 were treated.

The Council has 21 tips, sewage outfalls and properties which receive treatment as required. The sewer systems in Appleton, Daresbury, Frodsham, Grappenhall, Halton, Hatton, Helsby, Moore, Stockton Heath and Walton, were test baited and infestation was found in Helsby to a limited degree. The infested portions received two maintenance treatments.

(10) **FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948**
Home Office Form 572 (Revised)

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors :

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspec- tions</i>	<i>Written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	38	20	5	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	87	22	2	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises')	13	13	—	—
TOTAL	138	55	7	—

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector		by H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	7	5	2	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or de- fective	2	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	10	10	2	—	—

All factories are entered in the register kept for the purpose. Number of Outworkers—11, employed in the making of wearing apparel and curtains. No action taken during the year.

11. Swimming Baths

There are no Public Swimming Baths in the District.

12. Moveable Dwellings

Close supervision was maintained on camping sites and individual moveable dwellings.

The district lacks a suitable camping site at the Stockton Heath end. Much difficulty is experienced by persons siting caravans in unsuitable positions and without having previously obtained planning approval; often those concerned have no other home, the caravan is a poor type unsuitable for permanent occupation and various crude sheds and additions are added.

Applications now require approval under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, which gives better control as regards amenity to the district than the Public Health Act. The Council have adopted the recommendations of the County Planning Officer on new camping sites which include the following:—

“The use of the said property as a camping ground shall mean its use as pitches for:—

(i) tents covering an area not exceeding 100 sq. ft. each, or

(ii) caravans on wheels specially built for use as living accommodation and maintained in a fit state to be drawn or propelled on their own wheels on the public highway. No railway carriage, tram-car, omnibus body or other similar article, whether on wheels or not and howsoever adapted, shall be permitted to be stationed or erected on the said property.”

CAMPING SITES

Number of licences in operation, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 269:—

	<i>Year of 1952</i>
(a) For Camping Sites	11
(b) For fixed type dwellings sited on above Camping Sites	8
(c) For other individual moveable dwellings	64
Estimated maximum number of Campers resident in the area at one time, during the summer season, 1952	439

13. Insect Pests

Three houses were found to be infested with bed bugs, successful eradication was carried out with D.D.T.

Ants have caused trouble in one locality of dwelling houses; suitable poison was supplied to the householders. It proved effective where used properly.

Other infestations dealt with were wasps' nests, cockroaches and crickets.

14. Schools

During the year 8 inspections (as allowed by the Public Health Act) of public elementary schools have been made. The water supply is good and adequate, but repairs and improvements are required at many schools. Certain urgent maintenance repairs were asked for and carried out. Automatic flushing of urinals is required in some cases, also attention to dusty, badly surfaced playgrounds; pail closets should be fly-proof.

The County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, has reported on schools (in and outside) direct to the Director of Education, C.C.C.

15. Mortuaries

The mortuaries controlled by the Council at Frodsham and Stockton Heath are in a satisfactory condition.

SECTION D—HOUSING

1. New Houses in 1952

Number of new houses erected by Local Authority	80
Number of new houses erected by other bodies and persons	110
TOTAL	190

<i>Parishes</i>	<i>New Houses erected 1952</i>		<i>No. of inhabited houses in Rural District 31st Dec. 1952.</i>	
	<i>Private</i>	<i>Local Authority</i>		
Alvanley	—	—	85	
Antrobus	2	—	224	
Appleton	87	5	1021	
Aston	—	—	72	
Budworth (Great)	—	6	118	
Daresbury	—	—	72	
Dutton	—	2	95	
Frodsham	7	—	1565	
Grappenhall	2	—	1760	
Halton	1	1	447	

Hatton	....	....	....	....	—	—	....	92
Helsby	....	....	....	....	3	—	....	825
Kingsley	....	....	....	....	3	—	....	358
Manley	....	....	....	....	—	—	....	140
Moore	....	....	....	....	—	—	....	156
Norley	....	....	....	....	2	—	....	279
Norton	....	....	....	....	—	—	....	41
Preston Brook	....	....	....	....	—	—	....	122
Stockton Heath	....	....	....	....	—	44	....	2287
Stretton	....	....	....	....	—	—	....	131
Sutton	....	....	....	....	2	22	....	228
Walton	....	....	....	....	1	—	....	511
Whitley	....	....	....	....	—	—	....	167
TOTALS				....	110	80	....	10796

2. Housing

There is still a heavy demand for Council Houses. All applicants were asked to submit a revised application form. 1363 forms were sent out to existing applicants on the register of which 865 were returned.

The Council decided to proceed in obtaining the closing or demolition of some of the worst houses in the district. In principle not more than 5% of the 1953 building programme of the Council houses were to be reserved for the rehousing of tenants displaced by such action. Certain houses were reported to the Council but formal action was not completed by the end of 1952.

It is hoped that the housing situation will improve so that this rate can increase.

Owing to the high costs of repairs, difficulty continues to be experienced in enforcing repairs under the Public Health Acts, especially to the older types of properties, where the controlled rent is low.

3. Emergency Accommodation

Certain requisitioned properties have been released and now only 10 remain.

The converted ex-Army huts at Townfield Lane Camp, Frodsham and Red Brow Camp, Preston Brook, provide emergency accommodation for 18 family units.

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding

	1951	1952
(a) i. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	19	10
ii. Number of families dwelling therein	23	14
iii. Number of persons dwelling therein	138	77
(b) i. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3	1
(c) i. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	6	10
ii. Number of persons concerned in such cases	35	70
(d) i. Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil	Nil

SECTION E**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD****1. Milk and Dairies**

Numbers on the registers are:—

Dairies	4
Distributors	18
Dealers	11
Supplementary	10

Samples taken were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead, and comprise the following:—

	No. of samples	No. of samples unsatisfactory
Methylene Blue (keeping quality raw milks)	79	8★
Phosphatase (Heat Treated Pasteurised Milks)	42	1★
Turbidity (Heat Treated Sterilised Milks)	7	—
Of these samples number biological examination for presence of Tubercle Bacilli	29	—
Number found to contain Tubercle Bacilli	3★	

★ *Necessary action was taken to remedy these*

2. Clean Food Byelaws

Inspections were carried out, and advice was given on the correct methods of food hygiene.

3. Ice-cream

The hygiene of premises and personnel was satisfactory. Manufacture is only on a small scale 4 by hot mix and 6 by cold mix. All other registrations are for sale only.

Samples were taken which were graded as follows:—

Grade 1	....	....	....	62
Grade 2	....	....	....	0
Grade 3	....	....	....	0
Grade 4	....	....	....	1

4. Meat and Other Foods

The Sanitary Inspectors act as Meat Inspectors.

During the year, 92 visits were made in respect of Meat and Food Inspections.

No Meat Marketing Scheme under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is in force in this district.

No slaughter houses were used regularly during the year 1952; animals being slaughtered in the adjoining Urban District of Runcorn.

Post-mortem examination of pigs occasionally slaughtered at farms under Ministry of Food Special Licences has been carried out as required.

The quantity of food condemned during the year was:—

					<i>lbs.</i>
Beef — home killed	....	....	....	....	250
Beef — imported	....	....	....	....	168
Bacon	....	....	....	....	14
Fish	....	....	....	....	40
Canned Meat Products	....	....	....	....	152
Canned Fish Products	....	....	....	....	11
Canned Fruit Products	....	....	....	....	325
Canned Vegetables	....	....	....	....	192
Canned Milk	....	....	....	....	35
Ham — imported	....	....	....	....	253
Dried Fruit	....	....	....	....	147
Sausages	....	....	....	....	12
Jam	....	....	....	....	5348
Peanut Butter	....	....	....	....	1
Pickles	....	....	....	....	1
Vinegar	....	....	....	....	1
TOTAL					6950

5. Adulteration, etc. Food and Drugs Adulteration Act

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of the Cheshire County Council for the following report of the work carried out by his department in the Runcorn Rural District under the Food and Drugs Act during the year 1952.

Samples obtained during year ended 31st December, 1952.

<i>Name of Sample</i>	<i>No. obtained</i>	<i>Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality</i>
Almonds (Ground)	2	—
Apple Juice	1	—
Ammoniated tincture of Quinine	1	—
Boracic Ointment	1	—
Chewing Gum	1	—
Custard Powder	1	—
Coffee	2	—
Camphorated Oil	1	—
Desiccated Coconut	3	—
Dried Peas	1	—
Dried Thyme	1	—
Dried Parsley	1	—
Epsom Salts	1	—
Ginger Wine	1	—
Honey	1	—
Iodine	1	—
Ice-Cream	1	—
Ice-Cream Mixture	1	1
Jam Sandwich	2	—
Jam	3	—
Lemon Cheese	1	—
Mint in Vinegar	1	—
Milk	48	5
Meat Paste	1	—
Orange Squash	2	—
Olive Oil	1	—
Prunes	1	—
Raisin Cordial	1	—
Sponge Mixture	1	—
Swiss Roll	1	—
Sweets	2	—
Soda Mints	1	—
Whisky	4	—
	<hr/> 92 <hr/>	<hr/> 6 <hr/>

Particulars of Non-Standard Samples

<i>Sample</i>			<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1.	Milk	....	5% deficient in fat	Retail sale at farm from churn. Deficiency due to failure to keep milk stirred. Seller Cautioned.
2.	Milk	....	13.3% deficient in fat	do.
3.	Milk	....	6.6% deficient in fat	Retail sale of bottle. Another sample taken at same time was genuine. No action.
4.	Ice-Cream Mixture		Labelling does not conform to Article 2 (3) b of the Labelling of Food Order	Words "Vegetable fats" appeared before "castor sugar" on label whereas according to analysis this should have been in reverse order. Manufacturers Cautioned.
5.	Milk (Channel Islands)	....	5% deficient in fat	Particulars sent to Ministry of Food in accordance with Ministry ruling.
6.	Milk	....	1.7% deficient in Non-fatty solids	Sample was certified to be "genuine but abnormal" No action.

6. Shell-Fish (Molluscan)

There are no Shell-fish beds in the area. Shell-fish are on sale regularly in the district. If Shell-fish, Mussels or Shrimps are eaten locally, they should be well cooked and should come from Government-controlled beds.

7. Watercress

Only that as grown on properly controlled beds with a pure water supply and labelled should be sold and bought, otherwise there is a danger of intestinal disease spreading.

SECTION F PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The prevailing varieties of notifiable disease during the year were mainly confined to Measles and Whooping Cough.

1. Research

When further research reveals more about the virus causing, e.g., Measles, a sound curative serum could be made, when the disease could be controlled and eventually wiped out.

Whooping Cough vaccine can now be given to infants at an early age, the results so far have been very good. This can be obtained free of charge by the patient's own Doctor, which I strongly recommend.

Further research is required into the "carrier" state of many diseases with a view to providing a cure for these, but preventive measures, e.g., Diphtheria Immunisation, Smallpox vaccination, inoculation against Typhoid Fever and other diseases will be necessary for many years where these diseases are likely to occur, or are prevalent; in addition proper hygiene and sanitation are an essential.

2. Diphtheria Immunisation

The *free scheme* is still available so that parents and guardians could have their children *properly* immunised against the deadly disease diphtheria.

All children one to fifteen years of age (*preferably* between the *sixth and ninth months*) should be properly immunised against diphtheria by two injections; in addition, a "booster" dose (one) is required in five years' time. This can be obtained *free of cost* through the parents' or guardians' own Doctor in the Surgery; also at Welfare Centres and Day Nurseries. Special Clinics are organised at schools as required. Application should be made at the Welfare Centres, Day Nurseries, Schools, or to the Public Health Department (Divisional).

Propaganda on the above has been *continuously* carried out aided by the Press and the Central Council for Health Education, etc, but still some children are found to have not been immunised.

Parents or guardians should face up to their responsibilities and have their children properly immunised at once:

"PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE."

3. Care of the Blind

The welfare of Blind Persons was dealt with by the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, under the provisions of the appropriate Act, working in conjunction with the Blind Welfare Societies, up to 5th July, 1948, and after this the same care continued under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 (Divisional Health Committee, etc.).

4. Mental Deficiency and Special Schools for Defective Children

This was dealt with as required by the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, and the appropriate Departments, etc., up to 5th July, 1948; after this further developments were carried out under the appropriate Acts.

5. Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Cases of this disease are notified immediately to the County and local Divisional Medical Officer of Health.

6. Prevention of Disease from Abroad

The Government under the appropriate Acts have a system of medical examination, etc., for those persons arriving in this country from abroad who have been in areas where serious infectious disease has occurred. All contacts are medically examined, given written and verbal instructions what to do if they feel ill, and the local Medical Officer of Health is notified of their arrival and he arranges for the necessary supervision. With the outbreaks of the serious type of smallpox abroad, it is again strongly recommended that all infants and others should be properly vaccinated according to the law on the subject; this can be carried out free of charge through the patient's own doctor.

7. Notifiable Disease (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1952

The following table includes particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases in the area during the year 1952:—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases Diagnosed</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	—
*Scarlet Fever	41	11	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Erysipelas	5	2	—
Pneumonia (Acute Primary or Influenzal)	8	2	1
Measles	345	—	—
Whooping Cough	125	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	2	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—

* N.B. Scarlet fever—Examination of contacts ? carriers (preventive measures and treatment of these):—

1. Attention to unhealthy throat and nose (e.g., operation for removal of unhealthy tonsils and adenoids and/or penicillin treatment).
2. Cleanliness (N.B., dust) in home, school, etc. (Frequent “spring-clean” and disinfection as required—playgrounds, etc. (*non-dusty*).)
3. Constant attention to *good* hygiene and sanitation *everywhere* by all concerned.

An analysis of the total notified cases under the following age groups is given below:—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases at all ages</i>	<i>Un- der 1</i>	<i>1 to 2</i>	<i>2 to 3</i>	<i>3 to 4</i>	<i>4 to 5</i>	<i>5 to 10</i>	<i>10 to 15</i>	<i>15 to 20</i>	<i>20 to 35</i>	<i>35 to 45</i>	<i>45 to 65</i>	<i>65 and over</i>
Scarlet fever	41	—	—	4	1	3	27	3	2	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	—
Pneumonia (Acute Primary or Influenzal)	8	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	3	1
Measles	345	8	17	31	39	45	201	3	—	—	—	1	—
Whooping cough	125	11	8	9	9	27	60	—	—	1	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anterior polio- myelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food poisoning	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningo- coccal Infection	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	527	19	25	44	49	76	289	6	3	3	6	6	1

The Chester and District Hospital Management Committee have informed all general practitioners that they would be responsible for the supply of diphtheria antitoxin (free)—in emergency at the Runcorn Victoria Memorial Hospital (the Matron). In addition it can be obtained at any general hospital. Supplies can also be obtained (in emergency) from any infectious disease hospital, e.g., Warrington and Davenham.

Practitioners may, if they wish, obtain a small stock from a hospital in anticipation of requirements rather than wait until they need it for a particular case. (N.B.)

Stock held by hospitals or practitioners should be returned three months before expiry date for exchange to the source of supply.

In few diseases is prompt treatment as necessary as in diphtheria.

N.B. Antitoxin should be given in all suspicious cases at once, in the home or in the hospital. SWABBING IS ONLY AN AID TO DIAGNOSIS.

This matter is particularly important as the percentage of children properly immunised against diphtheria has fallen during the last year.

Swabs were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead—in addition, as required, the laboratories at Chester and Warrington, free of charge (*this applies to all examinations carried out in the interests of Public Health*).

RUNCORN RURAL DISTRICT

8. Total Deaths, 1952

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
All Causes	216	188
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	0	0
3. Syphilitic disease	0	1
4. Diphtheria	0	0
5. Whooping Cough	0	0
6. Meningococcal infections	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
8. Measles	0	0
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	0
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	5	8
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	2
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	0	4
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	0	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic Neoplasms	17	14
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0
16. Diabetes	2	4
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	32	44
18. Coronary disease, angina	31	14
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	5
20. Other heart disease	40	36
21. Other circulatory disease	13	10
22. Influenza	1	1
23. Pneumonia	6	3
24. Bronchitis	9	15
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	0
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	0
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	3	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	5	0
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
31. Congenital malformations	0	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	19
33. Motor vehicle accidents	7	0
34. All other accidents	12	2
35. Suicide	5	0
36. Homicide and operations of war	0	0

					Males	Females
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total	....	....	....	8	2
	Legitimate	....	....	....	7	2
	Illegitimate	....	....	....	1	0
Live Births	Total	....	....	....	258	234
	Legitimate	....	....	....	251	224
	Illegitimate	....	....	....	7	10
Stillbirths	Total	....	....	....	4	2
	Legitimate	....	....	....	4	1
	Illegitimate	....	....	....	0	1

POPULATION.....35,520 (estimated mid-year Home Population)
 Comparability Factors.....Births 1.03; Deaths 0.94

**BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,
 MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR
 CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1952**
 Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns

	Runcorn Rural District	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Adminis- trative County
<i>Rates per 1,000 home population</i>					
BIRTHS—					
Live births	13.86	15.30	16.90	15.50	17.60
Stillbirths	12.19	0.35	0.43	0.36	0.34
		26.60(a)	24.60(a)	23.00(a)	19.20(a)
DEATHS—					
All causes	11.38	11.30	12.10	11.20	12.60
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.11	0.24	0.28	0.22	0.31
Influenza	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (includ- ing Polioencephalitis)	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Pneumonia	0.25	0.47	0.52	0.43	0.58
NOTIFICATIONS (corrected)					
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Scarlet Fever	1.15	1.53	1.75	1.58	1.56
Whooping Cough	3.52	2.61	2.74	2.57	1.66
Diphtheria	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01
Erysipelas	0.14	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.14
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	9.71	8.86	10.11	8.49	9.23
Pneumonia	0.22	0.72	0.80	0.62	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis (includ- ing Polioencephalitis):					
Paralytic	0.00	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
Non-paralytic	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Food Poisoning	0.05	0.13	0.16	0.11	0.18
Puerperal Pyrexia	0.00	17.87(a)	23.94(a)	10.22(a)	30.77(a)
<i>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</i>					
DEATHS—					
All causes under 1 year of age	20.32	27.60 (b)	31.20	25.80	23.80
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	0.00	1.10	1.30	0.50	0.70

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Intermediate List No. and Cause		Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
A115	Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	61	0.09	
A116	Abortion with toxæmia	13	0.02	1
	Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	147	0.21	
A117	Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth	59	0.09	
A118	Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia	31	0.04	3
A119	Abortion with sepsis	47	0.07	5
A120	Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	138	0.20	

9. Tuberculosis

No person employed in the milk trade was found suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, nor was it found necessary compulsorily to remove to hospital any person suffering from Tuberculosis.

For the prevention of this disease, the following precautions should be noted:—

A properly balanced diet, in addition early diagnosis (X-ray, etc.), proper treatment, *thorough* disinfection of homes when cases go to a sanatorium, separate rooms and utensils, frequent visits by Health Visitors, and as required by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspectors. All new cases are specially investigated by me and reported to me as Divisional Medical Officer of Health (as required to H.M. Inspector of Factories). Close liaison is kept with the Chest Physicians. Follow-up of contacts and the patients by the Health Visitor is carried out very thoroughly and action taken as required by myself and the Chest Physician (Divisional Health). The Mass X-ray Units are proving useful in detecting early cases of Tuberculosis, etc.

Medical officers in charge of industrial hygiene, etc., factory inspectors, form a valuable liaison in preventing and ascertaining the cause of tuberculosis (e.g., dust, working conditions, disinfections, cleanliness, etc.). The Public Health Act, 1936 (section 287) proves useful to the Medical Officer of Health (and Sanitary Inspectors) allowing power of entry to any premises for the general purpose of the Act, in conjunction with those concerned.

In my opinion, all milk, especially for children, should be properly heat-treated (e.g., pasteurised or sterilised); failing this, heat-treated in the home.

With proper veterinary control of cattle, proper housing conditions and food for the people, these, with heat-treatment of milk (e.g., pasteurisation, etc., or proper heat-treatment in the home), will help to stamp out this terrible disease. Proper heat-treatment of milk not only kills tubercle bacillus but other germs causing disease.

A thorough disinfection (steam, etc.) of the house, clothing, etc., with a *thorough* "spring-clean" of the house when a case is admitted to a sanatorium or hospital, *is essential*. Isolation of contacts (*especially* children) is most essential and every endeavour is made to do this. B.C.G. injections are given by the Chest Physician in suitable cases. Chalets, extra beds and bedding are supplied as and when required, via the Divisional Health Department.

Particulars of the 29 new cases of tuberculosis and of the 4 deaths from the disease in the area during 1952:—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1-4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4-14	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15-24	2	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
25-34	2 (1)	1 (2)	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-44	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-54	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-64	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 upwards	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	14	10	4	1	3	1	—	—

3 Deaths were Notified Cases.

Figures in brackets relate to cases transferred from another district

Specimens of sputum from suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis patients are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead, also Warrington and Chester Royal Infirmary laboratories.

Tuberculosis cases on register. Comparative rates:—

Year	Estimated Population	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total all Forms	No. per 1,000 of Population
		M.	F.	M.	F.		
1943	—	66	49	31	42	188	
1944	—	65	53	37	47	202	
1945	31,710	71	53	32	41	197	6.21
1946	32,760	68	44	34	34	180	5.49
1947	32,930	60	42	29	32	163	4.95
1948	34,230	59	44	28	33	164	4.79
1949	34,550	62	37	31	34	164	4.74
1950	35,580	74	48	29	35	186	5.22
1951	35,510	79	55	25	34	193	5.43
1952	35,520	89	61	29	33	212	5.97

10. Classified Table of Cancer Deaths

	AGE	-30		30-50		50-70		over		Total
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Bladder		-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	3
Breast		-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	4
Genital Organs:										
Prostate		-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
Liver		-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3
Lungs		1	-	-	-	7	2	-	-	10
Rectum		-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Remainder of Intestinal Tract:										
Oesophagus		-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	3
Colon		-	-	-	-	1	2	1	2	6
Stomach		-	-	-	1	4	1	1	2	9
Throat and Mouth		-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Caecum		-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	3
Cancer of all other sites....		-	-	-	1	1	3	-	7	12
Male Deaths		1	-	-	-	20	-	8	-	29
Female Deaths		-	-	-	3	-	13	-	13	29

The 58 deaths from cancer give a rate of 1.63 per 1,000 of population, or 14.35% of total number (404) deaths reported during year.

11. Cancer

Under Section 76 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, Sections 1, 2 and 6 and sub-sections (2) and (3) of Section 8 of the Cancer Act, 1939, were repealed and the responsibility for the provision of an adequate cancer service was placed on the Minister and Regional Hospital Boards by Part II of the National Health Service Act of 1946.

Facilities for cancer diagnosis and treatment are available in all major general hospitals in the area and the radiotherapeutic work of the region is centred at the Liverpool Radium Institute. Follow-up clinics are undertaken at the Chester Royal Infirmary.

The areas of the Runcorn Rural District Council and the Runcorn Urban District Council are within the area of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.

ANNUAL REPORT OF CANAL BOAT INSPECTOR 1952

In accordance with Section 249 (3) of the Public Health Act, 1936, I beg to report as follows:—

One canal boat was inspected during the year 1952, at the Preston Brook Quay.

There were no contraventions, and no infectious diseases were reported on boats whilst in our area. In this district few boats tied up at the wharves since canal transport was to a large extent superseded by road transport.

The number of persons occupying the boat inspected were: 2 adult males. The number allowed on the certificate was 4.

IMPORTANT

THE COMMON SENSE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST DISEASE

- (1) **CLEANLINESS.** (a) This **must** be thorough in or around the house, kitchen, shop, larder, etc. (This also applies to feeding bottles and teats.)

WHY? Where these are **absolutely** clean there are few, if any, disease germs. Feeding bottles and teats **must** be thoroughly washed and boiled prior to use. If in doubt ask your Public Health Department, Welfare Centre, Health Visitor, or District Nurse.

(b) This also applies to those who handle and cook food, especially the hands and nails.

WHY? Dirt (with disease germs) may be on the hands or **under the nails** and so spread disease germs to food; **always** thoroughly wash the hands **and clean under the nails** after using the lavatory.

- (2) **DESTRUCTION OF FLIES, RATS AND MICE.**

(a) **FLIES:** Any dirt, faeces, manure, etc., **in which flies breed** must be disposed of quickly and thoroughly (burying and **well covering** these with earth is one of the best ways). Flies should be destroyed by, e.g., fly sprays, fly swats, fly papers, etc., and food larders, pail closets, and bins **must** be fly proof. Food **must** be protected from dust, dirt, flies, rats and mice, and kept in a cool well ventilated place. Disinfectant solution **must** be used **to cover** contents in pail closets.

WHY? Flies **carry** disease germs (in and on their bodies) from all kinds of dirt to food, and so spread diseases.

(b) **RATS AND MICE:** For the destruction of these ask your chemist; failing this your Sanitary Inspector (who is also the Rodent Officer).

WHY? Rats and mice breed in all kinds of dirt, and like flies carry disease germs to food (and water).

- (3) **FOOD** should be **properly** heat treated; this applies especially to the manufacture of ice cream, the cooking of shell-fish, and the pasteurisation and sterilization of milk. Where milk is not pasteurised or sterilized I recommend that this is boiled at home.

WHY? By proper heat treatment, any disease germs present are destroyed. This applies to all kinds of food, including ice cream, shell-fish and milk.

- (4) **WATERCRESS** must be obtained from properly controlled beds, that is, where pure water is supplied; **this with lettuce and fruits** without a fairly thick outside coat, should be thoroughly washed in a weak Condy's solution and then rinsed with pure water before being eaten.

WHY? Watercress can carry disease germs on it; this also applies to lettuce and fruit.

- (5) **DRIED EGGS AND DRIED MILK** must be kept in a cool place, and when the package is opened it should be used up quickly.
WHY? These are good foods, but if the containers are left open to the air too long (e.g., over two days) germs can grow in them and so spread disease.
- (6) **ALL WATER FOR DRINKING, DIETETIC OR DAIRY PURPOSES** should be from a pure supply; if in doubt as to its purity, boil it well for small quantities, or chlorinate it for large quantities—see instructions on bottles obtainable from most chemists. **Do not bathe in rivers**, etc., which may be sewage polluted.
WHY? Water, if impure, can have disease germs in it; boiling or chlorination kills disease germs. If you bathe in rivers, canals, etc., which may be sewage polluted, you may swallow disease germs.
- (7) **CONSTIPATION.** This *must* be avoided, for example, by eating sufficient roughage food, e.g., whole-meal bread and vegetables also by keeping the stomach muscles strong and healthy by games and P.T. exercises. If in doubt see your own doctor.
WHY? If constipated foul matter remains too long in the lower bowel so poisoning the blood and also holding disease germs in the bowel which may infect the body. Many diseases might be traced to chronic constipation.
- (8) **TO AVOID SPREADING “COLDS IN THE HEAD”, INFLUENZA**, etc. Use a handkerchief when you cough or sneeze.
WHY? A handkerchief acts as a screen and so catches disease germs from the nose and throat. Disinfect and boil handkerchiefs well prior to washing. Wet feet, wet clothes, and draughts cause chilling of the body and so render it more liable to disease.
- (9) **PROTECTIVE INJECTIONS AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, SMALL-POX**, etc. See that all (especially young children) have these as required.
WHY? By these injections the body is more fully protected against dangerous diseases. If in doubt ask your own doctor, Medical Officer of Health, Welfare Centre, Health Visitor, or District Nurse.
- (10) **PROPER DISINFECTION OF HOUSES**, etc. After any serious disease in a house, etc., see that this is carried out (ask your Public Health Department, Sanitary Inspector), **also a thorough “spring-clean”**. The latter would be sufficient in less serious diseases such as influenza, measles and whooping cough.
WHY? By this disease germs are destroyed or washed away and so cannot infect others.
- (11) **ISOLATION OF CONTACTS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.** Carry out thoroughly what is recommended on the special pamphlet issued by the Medical Officer of Health when patients are sent to hospital or nursed at home. This applies also to *any sick animals* (indoor or outdoor); if in doubt call in a veterinary officer.
WHY? By so doing disease germs are less likely to spread. If in doubt ask your own doctor or Public Health Department (e.g., your Sanitary Inspector).
- (12) **DEFECTIVE TEETH.** See your dentist if your teeth are bad or septic; better still see him as a routine every six months.
WHY? If your teeth are bad or septic the chewing powers are not good and so all kinds of indigestion may arise. Septic teeth (and gums) lead to poisoning of the blood and so to various diseases.

- (13) **THE PREVENTIVE FOODS.** Eat some of these daily in your daily diet, which **must** be properly cooked, varied, **and** flavoured.

WHY? The preventive foods (i.e., those which help the body to prevent disease) are:—

Milk and eggs (dried or ordinary);
Cheese;
Fresh vegetables and fruit (cooked or in salads);
Animal fats, e.g., fish (especially herrings), and butter;
Margarine (vitaminised).

These all contain valuable substances called **vitamins** which are **essential** to good health. If in doubt ask, e.g., your Health Visitor or School Teacher, failing this your doctor.

When the above cannot be obtained, various additional vitamins, e.g., rose hip juice (vitamin C), vitamin C tablets, wheatgerm (vitamin B), cod and halibut liver oil (vitamins A and D) and other vitamins can be obtained from your own doctor if he agrees these are required. They can also be bought at the various chemists and shops. Without the proper amount of vitamins taken daily, the body is more open to attack by disease germs.

GENERAL

- (1) Anyone feeling ill should see their own doctor (better still, as a routine, see him once a year)—though with the above common-sense precautions there should be little danger of contacting or spreading disease.
- (2) **ASK FOR MORE OF THESE PAMPHLETS AS REQUIRED FROM YOUR MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.** Have discussion groups, lectures and films on health education. Attend the official classes on personal hygiene given by, e.g., the Red Cross Society, St. John Association, Scouts and Girl Guides—these organisations have excellent little books on the subject. Always carry out these common-sense preventive measures and *tell others about them*.
- (3) Good health mostly depends on YOU—your co-operation is essential.

“WHERE THERE IS DIRT THERE IS DISEASE”

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P.&S., L.M., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn Urban & Rural Districts
Divisional Medical Officer and School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS:

1. Town Hall, Runcorn.
2. Castle Park, Frodsham.

N.B. PLEASE KEEP THIS PAMPHLET FOR EASY REFERENCE

Appendix “ B ”

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

REPORT
FOR THE YEAR
1952

By the

DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Presented to the
Runcorn Divisional Health Committee
17th March, 1953

MEMBERS OF THE RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:
COUNTY COUNCILLOR H. HUGHES

Deputy Chairman:
COUNCILLOR MRS E. STANSFIELD, J.P.

Representatives of Local Health Authority

County Councillor G. ASTBURY, J.P., Chairman, County Health Committee
County Councillor A. WHITLEY, Vice-Chairman County Health Committee
Alderman W. A. GIBSON, J.P. County Councillor A. E. MOORS
County Councillor W. GITTINS, J.P. County Councillor R. E. PAYTON

Runcorn Rural District Council Representatives

Councillor D. L. DAVIES	Councillor J. W. KIRKHAM
„ H. HELSBY	„ G. S. WALLWORTH, J.P.
„ J. HUNT	„ C. WILKINSON
„ H. JACKSON	„ G. WILLIAMS

Runcorn Urban District Council Representatives

Councillor E. C. BROOKER, J.P.	Councillor T. B. SHALLCROSS
„ H. GOODALL	„ H. A. THOMAS
„ G. GOODIER	„ A. WOOD, J.P.
„ C. J. HELSBY	

Co-opted Members

Councillor W. H. STUBBS, Chester and District Hospital Management Committee
„ W. S. HUXTABLE, Runcorn Divisional Executive for Education
Dr. C. E. W. BOWER, Local Medical Committee for the County Palatine of Chester
Dr. E. WARDLE, National Health Service, Local Dental Committees
Mrs. W. HILL, Cheshire County Nursing Association
Mrs. C. EVANS
Mrs E. A. ROYLE
Mr J. D. WHITLEY

Officers

Clerk to the Committee: Mr. T. J. Lewis

Divisional Medical Officer: E. N. Hillman Gray, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.

**CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1952**

INTRODUCTION

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present this my Annual Report dealing with those portions of the Sections of Part III of the National Health Act, 1946, for which this Committee is responsible.

The report is sub-divided into the various sections of the Act and gives details of the work carried out during the year.

Child Welfare.—In connection with child welfare, in addition to the official welfare centres, day nursery, etc., available for all concerned, there are many representative voluntary organisations concerned with this very important subject—for further information enquiries should be made at the Divisional Health Department.

Family Planning Association (for marriage guidance, etc.—strongly recommended).—Some of the voluntary clinics in the north are, e.g.:—

†LIVERPOOL MOTHERS' WELFARE CLINIC, 9 Cambier Terrace, Liverpool, 1.—Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 2 to 3 p.m.

BRANCH CLINICS:—

*†Liverpool, 4.—294 Netherfield Road. Thursdays, 10.30 to 11.30 a.m.

*†Liverpool, 11.—Community Council Hall, Townsend Avenue. Monday, 2 to 3 p.m.

*†Liverpool, 21.—Linacre Methodist Mission, Linacre Road, Litherland. Fridays, 2 to 3 p.m.

At clinics marked * every patient is seen by a doctor.

At clinics marked † pre-marriage advice is given.

Smallpox.—Owing to the danger of serious cases of smallpox arriving in this country from abroad, all concerned are advised they should be vaccinated.

Immunisation.—*Diphtheria immunisation* proves again and again everywhere in the world its wonderful powers to prevent this deadly disease; *all children*, preferably between the sixth and ninth months, must be properly immunised, with a further dose in just under five years' time; this can be obtained free of cost under the Divisional Health Committee Scheme from their own doctors or at the welfare centres or schools.

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE.

From the number of notifications received during the year for children who had been vaccinated against smallpox and immunised against diphtheria, it is noted that there was slight decrease from the previous year in the percentage of children so protected, but the figures are still well below the very good percentage that was maintained during the latter years of the war. Remarks on this serious aspect of preventive medicine are made later in my report.

Every endeavour will be made to ensure that the high percentage of children vaccinated and immunised in the past is maintained in future years.

Ambulance and Transport Service

The temporary ambulance and transport service has continued during the year, and for a temporary service this has worked satisfactorily. The Cheshire County Council hope to establish a permanent Ambulance and Transport Service as soon as possible.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care

In connection with the prevention of illness, care and after-care, much work has been carried out during the year, especially with tuberculosis patients. All cases on the registers have been visited by the health visitors, and up-to-date report sheets completed. The care and after-care of these patients, and also other cases of illness, will be further pursued.

Accidents.—Insufficient attention is given to the prevention of accidents, especially in young persons, which could be avoided by common-sense methods; voluntary societies and school authorities can help in this important matter with suitable lectures and discussion groups at frequent intervals. The Citizens' Advice Bureaux (Chester and Warrington) can advise where specialist lectures can be obtained.

Research.—Further medical and veterinary research (in addition, research on the virus diseases in plants, animals, etc.) may solve the question of the cause and spread of the diseases caused by viruses; especially the serious disease anterior poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis).

Intensive research is being carried out by the Ministry of Health to ascertain whether german measles (rubella) occurring in pregnant women may cause malformations, etc., in the new-born. (It is interesting to note that most tropical diseases have a cure, *due mostly to intensive research*, i.e., find the cause.) Research *must* proceed “behind the scenes” so that the cause and eventually the prevention and cure of all diseases will result. Further facilities in the investigation of infectious disease and disease generally is recommended, e.g., by pathological *overhauls*. A *FULL* examination of the blood is “a mirror of the health” of the individual and is insisted on by, e.g., some insurance companies.

Local research will be carried out as and when required.

Health Education

A pamphlet on the “*Commonsense Preventive Measures Against Disease*” is issued as required to all concerned via voluntary societies, health visitors, district nurses and midwives, also sanitary inspectors; it has proved most useful and instructive, especially where discussion groups, lectures, etc., have been arranged on the subject. (See Appendices to Annual Reports Runcorn Urban District Council and Runcorn Rural District Council, 1952.)

Hostel Accommodation (e.g., for elderly persons who can look after themselves) and **Convalescent Treatment** (N.B., children), can be arranged for through the Divisional Medical Officer of Health where beds are available and parents or guardians are prepared to pay a weekly amount based on an official “means test”.

Domestic Help Service

The Domestic Help Service is being used more and more each year, especially in cases of old people living on their own where they are unable to keep their homes clean. In each case an enquiry is made as to whether relations can help, or someone could be asked to live in, so helping the housing shortage, and only where a help is essential is this optional service granted, and then only on a “means test.” The National Assistance Board has been called in as and when required.

A close liaison has been kept with Hospitals, doctors, consultant chest physicians, health visitors and district nurses in the day-to-day administration of the various sections of the Act, and I am most grateful for the help they have afforded to me at all times.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Divisional Health Committee for their support and help to me on all occasions.

The co-operation and assistance of the County Medical Officer and his staff, the Clerk to the Divisional Health Committee, and also the staff in my Divisional Health Office, has been greatly appreciated by me in the carrying out of my various duties.

I beg to remain,

Town Hall, Runcorn
11th March, 1953

Your obedient Servant,
E. N. HILLMAN GRAY

SECTION 22

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

There are seven Welfare Centres in the Division, as follows:—

ANTROBUS — A Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Parish Hall on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 2.0 p.m.

FRODSHAM — The Child Welfare Clinic is held on alternate Tuesdays at the Trinity Church House, The Rock, Frodsham, at 2.0 p.m.

In addition, Ear, Nose and Throat, Visual and Minor Ailments Clinics are also held at this Centre during the month.

Work has continued throughout the year on the alterations of the Chapel-on-the-Rock, Frodsham, for a new Welfare Centre for this area; this is almost completed and should be ready for opening early in 1953.

HELSEBY — The Child Welfare Clinic for this district is held at the British Insulated Callender's Cable Works Recreation Room, Helsby, on alternate Tuesdays at 2.0 p.m.

KINGSLEY — A Child Welfare Clinic for this area is held at the Hurst Chapel, Kingsley, on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 2.0 p.m.

RUNCORN — The Child Welfare Clinic at this Centre is held at the new Child Welfare Centre, "Rydal Mount," Halton Road, Runcorn, each Wednesday at 10.0 a.m., and 2.0 p.m.

Clinics are also held at this Welfare Centre during the month for the following:

Minor Ailments, School, Dental, Orthopaedic and Visual.

Work on the conversion of "Aulderwood" and "Rydal Mount" Halton Road, Runcorn, for a new all purposes Welfare Centre for Runcorn was completed during the year, and the buildings were officially opened on the 1st November, 1952, by D. Vosper, Esq., M.P., for Runcorn, and on the 7th November, 1952, the Clinics were transferred from the old Welfare Centre in High Street, to the new premises.

DAY NURSERY — There is one Day Nursery in the Division, situated in Okell Street, Runcorn.

During the year, work was completed on the provision of Drying Cupboard, Cot Store and Milk Room, and alterations to pram shed at the Nursery.

The Committee inspected the Welfare Centres at Frodsham, Runcorn and Stockton Heath, and the Day Nursery, Runcorn, on the annual inspection of County owned and rented properties, and attention was given to alterations, repairs and replacements required. In addition, periodic inspections of all Welfare Centres and the Day Nursery were made by me, and any items requiring attention were referred to the Committee for their consideration.

Attendances at the various clinics held at the Welfare Centres and for the Day Nursery, are given in the following tables:

A. MOTHERS' CLINIC					<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
Ante-natal	....	....	....	....	168	633
Post-natal	....	....	....	....	18	18
Dental:—						
Pre-natal	....	....	....	....	—	4
Nursing mothers					5	22
Dentures supplied						10

B. YOUNG CHILDREN'S CLINICS					<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
(i) <i>Infant welfare</i>						
To 1 year	....	....	....	....	561	6641
1 to 5 years					105	2164
(ii) <i>Specialist</i>						
Ophthalmic	....	....	....	....	11	47
Dental treatment (under 5)					25	26
E.N.T. (under 5)	....	....	....	....	—	—

B. (i) Welfare Centres					<i>New Cases</i>		<i>Total Attendances</i>	
					<i>0-1</i>	<i>1-5</i>	<i>0-1</i>	<i>1-5</i>
Antrobus	....	....	....	....	10	2	153	248
Frodsham	....	....	....	....	51	2	503	235
Grappenhall					91	6	1234	267
Helsby	....	....	....	....	44	7	504	375
Kingsley	....	....	....	....	25	4	186	87
Runcorn	....	....	....	....	205	75	2324	646
Stockton Heath	....	....	....	....	135	9	1737	306
Totals	....	....	....	....	561	105	6641	2164

B. (ii) Ophthalmic Clinics

						<i>New Cases</i>		<i>Total Attendances</i>
Frodsham	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	9
Runcorn	....	....	....	....	....	5	....	19
Stockton Heath	....	....	....	....	....	5	....	19
Totals	....	....	....	....	....	11	....	47

E.N.T. Clinic

						<i>New Cases</i>		<i>Total Attendance</i>
Frodsham	....	....	....	....	....	—	....	—
Stockton Heath	....	....	....	....	....	CLOSED	....	—
Totals	....	....	....	....	....	—	....	—

(iii) Day Nursery, Runcorn

						<i>Average No. Attending</i>		<i>Total Attendances</i>
Age 0–2 years	....	....	....	....	....	6	....	1615
2–5 years	....	....	....	....	....	24	....	6153

SECTION 23 — MIDWIFERY

Under this section the Committee are responsible for:—

- (i) Provision, where necessary, of accommodation for midwives and the maintenance, repair and alterations required for such premises.
- (ii) Provision of transport for midwives where necessary in cases of emergency.

No. 10 Stanley Villas, Runcorn, is the only County-owned property in the Division used for the accommodation of County midwives.

All other County midwives in the Division reside in property under arrangements made by themselves, and for which this Committee have no responsibilities with regard to repairs, etc.

During the year the Committee inspected No. 10 Stanley Villas, Runcorn, and any repairs requiring attention were dealt with.

Transport and medical requisites were provided as and when required.

SECTION 24 — HEALTH VISITING

The Committee are also responsible for housing accommodation for Health Visitors, but during the year all Health Visitors in the Division resided in property under arrangements made by themselves, and for which this committee have no responsibility with regard to repairs, etc.

SECTION 25 — HOME NURSING

With the exception of two District Nurses in Runcorn and one District Nurse/Midwife at Budworth who reside in properties under arrangements made by themselves and for which this Committee have no responsibility, the remainder now reside in County owned or rented property.

During the year the District Nurse for Stockton Heath was accommodated in the property 68, Mill Lane, Stockton Heath at present rented to the County Council by the Runcorn Rural District Council.

The Committee inspected all County owned or rented property in the Division, and action was taken regarding any alterations, repairs or renewals requiring attention.

Work was completed during the year on the extensive alterations to the Nurse's Home, Delph Cottage, Daresbury, and the external painting of the Nurse's Home at Norley was completed.

SECTION 26 — VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Every effort has been made during the year to bring to the notice of parents and guardians the necessity of having their children vaccinated against smallpox and immunised against diphtheria.

A register is maintained of all births in the Division and if a record is not received that a child has been vaccinated at the age of 6 months, a letter is sent to the parents strongly advising them to have their child vaccinated. A similar course is also taken regarding immunisation when a child is one year of age, in the case of those in whom immunity has not been carried out at 6 — 9 months.

In addition, publicity has been given to this subject by posters, periodic advertisements in the local press, and the health visitors have discussed the question with mothers when making their home visits.

Special immunisation sessions were held by me at schools in the Division, 62 children being given primary injections and 491 reinforcing injections.

During the year there was an increase in the record cards received from Medical Practitioners for children immunised against whooping cough.

The following figures, compiled from record cards received from Medical Practitioners, show the number of vaccinations and immunisations carried out during the year. For comparison purposes the figures for the previous year are also given.

Vaccination

			<i>Welfare Centres</i>	<i>Doctor's Surgery</i>	<i>Patient's Home</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary	....	....	64	297	65	426
		1952	114	346	69	493
Re-vaccination	....	1952	—	109	11	120
		1951	1	139	6	146

Immunisation — Primary

			<i>Welfare Centres</i>	<i>Doctor's Surgery</i>	<i>Patient's Homes</i>	<i>School Clinics</i>	<i>Total</i>
Diphtheria	....	....	228	283	37	62	610
		1952	164	333	59	77	633
Whooping Cough	....	1952	121	31	6	—	158
		1951	22	9	5	—	36
Combined Whooping Cough/Diphtheria		1952	36	135	3	—	174
		1951	50	117	19	—	186

Immunisation — Reinforcing Injections

Diphtheria	....	....	15	171	14	491	691
		1952	9	173	4	775	961
Whooping Cough	....	1952	—	2	—	—	2
		1951	—	—	—	—	—
Combined Whooping Cough/Diphtheria		1952	—	5	—	—	5
		1951	—	—	—	—	—

SECTION 27 — AMBULANCE AND TRANSPORT SERVICE

The temporary scheme in force in the Division for this Service whereby arrangements were made with private firms throughout the Division to supply ambulances and cars to convey patients to hospitals, etc. was continued during the year.

The arrangements between the County Council and the Warrington Corporation, whereby the latter supplied ambulances for

the conveyance of non-infectious cases from Stockton Heath and the surrounding district and infectious disease cases throughout the area of the Division being admitted to the Warrington Isolation Hospital, were continued during the year.

For patients travelling a considerable distance, where practicable, arrangements were made for them to travel by rail, an ambulance being supplied for the conveyance of the patient from his/her home to the nearest railway station, and arrangements made with the distant authority for an ambulance to meet the train on arrival to convey the patient to his/her destination.

During the year the Ambulance and Transport Service Sub-Committee recommended the siting of the new ambulance depot at the rear of the new Welfare Centre at "Aulderwood" and "Rydal Mount," Halton Road,

Details of journeys made during the year, as compared with the previous twelve months, are as follows:

Ambulance Journeys				
	<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Emergencies</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
1952	939	1126	695	29326
1951	825	897	699	27188
Car Journeys:				
1952	6262	7814	1273	140614
1951	5775	7046	1182	141254
Total all Journeys:				
1952	7201	8940	1968	169940
1951	6600	7943	1881	168442
Increase	601	997	87	1491

The majority of the patients in the Division requiring transport, attend Hospitals in Chester, Liverpool and Warrington, and the average mileage per journey for the year was 23.59, compared with 25.52 for the previous year.

SECTION 28

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Tuberculosis

The Health Visitors were informed of all new cases and asked to visit and complete the environmental report sheet, and where the contacts of the patients had not attended the Chest Clinic for examination, they were advised to do so.

On receipt of the completed report sheets, these were carefully investigated by me, and where the housing conditions of the patients were such that it was advisable that they should be rehoused, the question was taken up with the Housing Departments of the Urban

and Rural District Council's, and I am pleased to be able to report that both Councils gave their sympathetic consideration to the re-housing of these cases, and in a large number of cases they were able to re-house the families. Where the housing accommodation was adequate the patients were strongly advised to occupy separate bedrooms, and in all cases advice was given on the precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of infection. Advice was also given to patients on how to obtain extra nourishment and assistance.

In all cases, enquiries were made to see whether it was possible to find the cause of infection.

In a few cases, especially where there were children at home, it was necessary to supply the services of a domestic help.

The chest physicians at the Runcorn and Warrington Chest Clinics tested the child contacts of cases, and during the year 16 B.C.G. injections were given.

When patients were admitted to Hospital, arrangements were made for a full disinfection of the premises to be carried out.

Details of cases during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1952, are as follows.

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
(a) Total number of cases on register—					
1st January, 1952	143	109	42	47	341
31st December, 1952	156	118	46	46	366
(b) Removals from register, 1st January to 31st December, 1952—					
Died	7	1	—	—	8
Left district	2	3	—	2	7
Recovered	—	1	—	—	1
	9	5	—	2	16
(c) Number of notifications received, 1st January to 31st December, 1952—					
New cases	20	10	4	1	35
Transfers	2	4	—	—	6
Restored to register	—	—	—	—	—
	22	14	4	1	41

Care of the Aged

The care and after-care of old people living on their own is becoming a more difficult problem, but in conjunction with general practitioners, assistance has been given to have cases admitted to a suitable hospital or hostel, or where this has not been possible, the provision of a domestic help, and a visit by the district nurse.

Whenever there are relations and friends, contact is made with them, if required, so that they can be reminded of their responsibility in the care of the old people and more help can and should be given by relatives in many cases.

As previously mentioned, patients are encouraged to arrange for someone to live in whenever possible and practicable.

The "Over 60" Club in Runcorn does very good work in the care of old people and their work could, with advantage, be copied elsewhere in the Division. In addition Women's Institutes, Townswomen's Guilds and church organisations take an interest in old people's welfare, working in conjunction with ward and parish councils.

The Central Council of Social Service, Warrington, has arranged for their voluntary assistants to visit old people living on their own in Runcorn and Stockton Heath districts. They visit the old people at regular intervals and take books, periodicals, etc., and assist them in any way possible.

Much valuable assistance has been given to the old people by these voluntary workers.

Loan of Nursing Equipment

Supplies of nursing equipment, apparatus, etc., are available for loan to patients from stocks supplied to district nurses, in accordance with the scale agreed to by the Cheshire County Council and my Committee. A reserve stock is also kept at my Divisional Office.

A patient borrowing equipment under the above heading is required to pay a deposit, which is refunded when the article is returned in good condition.

The number of articles loaned to patients during the year was 90 compared with 142 during the previous year.

Disabled Persons

A Register of Disabled Persons is being brought up-to-date, working in conjunction with, e.g., the District Rehabilitation Officer (Ministry of Labour), doctors, health visitors, district nurses, etc. Action will be taken as required with the District Rehabilitation Officer as regards Disabled Persons.

Home Occupation

In a few cases where patients are suffering from prolonged disability, resultant upon injury or sickness, arrangements have been made, in conjunction with the chest physicians and/or the patient's medical practitioner, and the British Red Cross Society for the supply of materials and apparatus for home occupation.

The patients have found great interest in the work and a new pleasure in life.

Some health visitors have given the greatest assistance to me in this important matter.

Health Education

Copies of my pamphlet "Commonsense Preventive Measures Against Disease" have been widely distributed throughout the Division, and posters on health education matters have been forwarded to shops, etc., for display.

Pamphlets are also left at homes where there are cases of infectious disease, giving details of the precautions to be taken to avoid the spread of infection.

Health matters on the wireless, Central Office of Information films, articles in the Press and magazines have aided health education, but the health visitors' personal visits and talks in the home are the most important means of spreading health education. The matron of the day nursery, Runcorn, and staff also greatly assist in this matter, in addition, doctors, midwives, district nurses and sanitary inspectors.

SECTION 29 — DOMESTIC HEALTH SERVICE

The number of domestic helps available at the 31st December, 1952, was 1 full-time and 22 part-time.

There was a steady demand on this service during the year under review, especially for old people living on their own, but there was a marked decrease in the number of applications for confinement cases, 23 cases as against 37 for the previous year.

All applications for the services of domestic helps were carefully investigated. The health visitors visited all applicants to make full enquiries as to the need of help, and also to enquire whether it was possible for arrangements to be made for relatives to assist, or for someone to live in, in the case of old people living alone, and only where neither of these arrangements were possible, and it was in the interests of the health of the patients that help was provided, were the services of a domestic help supplied.

All protracted cases were revisited at regular intervals to ascertain whether conditions were such that the services of a domestic help could be discontinued, or the number of hours per week the help was supplied, reduced. In a few cases this was possible.

At the 31st December, 1952, there were 45 protracted cases remaining on the Register, an increase of 6 on the previous year.

The number of cases attended during the year was 124, a decrease of 17 on the previous year. The cases were sub-divided as follows:

<i>Confinement Cases</i>	<i>Tuberculosis Cases</i>	<i>Aged Persons</i>	<i>Cases of Other Illness</i>
23	3	67	31

This service is not free to the patient but subject to a "means test."

Where any hardship is claimed after the assessment, the case is referred to the Divisional Health Committee for their decision in the matter.

